



THE
VANDERBILT
MUSEUM

CENTERPORT
LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

Price
25¢



VANDERBILT MUSEUM

*Administered by
The Suffolk County Park Commission*

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THE VANDERBILT MUSEUM is superbly located in a delightful garden setting on the crest of a hill overlooking picturesque Northport Harbor. Once one of America's great privately owned mansions, it is now a treasure house of science and art. Here indeed, are the perfect surroundings for so unique a collection of nature's wonders and man's finest handiwork.



Painting of
WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT, JR.
Artist Boutet de Monvel

On display are collections gathered by Mr. Wm. K. Vanderbilt during the course of 'round the world cruises which began in 1928 and continued until 1944 when Mr. Vanderbilt died and left a \$2,000,000 trust fund together with the mansion and museum for the enjoyment of the public.

In 1949, Mr. Barclay Warburton presented the gift to the County of Suffolk. The New York State Department of Education's Board of Regents issued a charter to the Board of Trustees at the same time. Gates were opened to the public for the first time in July 1950.

The late Mr. William Belanske did most of the original work in connection with the exhibits, under the supervision and according to the desires of Mr. Vanderbilt.

Originally a simple 6-room country home on a pleasant 43-acre site, the property was transformed through inspired landscaping and a painstaking passion for authenticity and drama in architecture into a magnificent 24-room mansion of striking Spanish-Moroccan design. In addition a 2-story structure in the same architectural theme was built to house the Hall of Fishes and Shell Collection.



ORGAN ROOM

Over 17,000 varieties of marine and wild life are on exhibition in these two buildings as well as thousands of priceless items of art and memorabilia dear to the heart of the museum's founder, Mr. William K. Vanderbilt.

At the main entrance to the museum grounds, a pair of massive iron gates open onto a picturesque cobbled driveway. Beyond the gateway are two great iron eagles that until 1898 stood atop New York's Grand Central Station. Beyond these stand six fluted columns of sculptured Cipalino marble from the ruins of Carthage. Here the driveway curves to reveal a great stone archway surmounted by a belltower and an ancient tower clock. The bells are dated 1715. Beyond the archway lies the central courtyard artfully paved with Belgian blocks in intricate designs.

Surrounding the house and courtyard are lovely mosaic walks fashioned from multi-colored pebbles and inspired by the colorful pebbled walks of Madeira. 180 magnificent Linden trees imported from Germany lend a towering and majestic loveliness to the superb landscaping.

THE RECEPTION CENTER

Visitors begin the tour of the Vanderbilt Museum and grounds in what was once the Vanderbilt Estate garage. The admission gate, visitors' register and souvenir shop are located on the main floor. In an alcove stands a 1924 Lincoln town car once used by the Vanderbilts. Upstairs are sleeping quarters which were used by visiting chauffeurs.



INTERIOR OF MAIN ENTRANCE



MEMORIAL ROOM

THE MANSION

The 24-room main house consists of a lower floor, a main floor and an upper floor. The furnishings are luxurious and exotic, reflecting Mr. Vanderbilt's taste for carved woodwork, antique furniture and strange and unusual knickknacks.

In the library are the original volumes of Commodore Perry's report to the Senate on his expeditions to Japan. An ancient Tibetan tapestry hangs on the wall. Another room is filled with photographs, maps and posters recording the fabulous auto races of the 1900's when goggled drivers raced along Long Island roads for the prized Vanderbilt Cup, often with as many as 100,000 onlookers.



MAIN ENTRANCE

VANDERBILT

Jan Aertsen van der Bilt
(? - 1705)

Arls van der Bilt
(1653 - 1715)

Jacob Van Der Bilt I
(1692 - 1760)

Jacob Van Der Bilt II
(1723 - 66)

Cornelius Van Derbilt
(1764 - 1832)
m. Phebe Hand
(1767 - 1854)

Mary

Jacob (1789 - 1805)

Charlotte
m. Capt. John De Forrest

Cornelius Vanderbilt
(1794 - 1877)
m. Sophia Johnson
(1797 - 1868)
m. Frank Crawford

Phebe (1798 - ?)

Jane

Elinor

Jacob Hand (1807 - 188 -)

Phebe (1810 - ?)

Phebe Jane
m. J. M. Cross

Ethelinda
m. Daniel B. Allen

William Henry Vanderbilt I
(1821 - 85)
m. Maria Louise Kissam

Emily
m. William K. Thorn

Cornelius Jeremiah Vanderbilt
(1815 - 82)
m. Ellen Williams

Eliza
m. George A. Osgood

Sophia Johnson
m. Daniel Torrance

Mary Alicia
m. Nicholas LaBau

Catherine Juliet
m. Smith Barker
m. Gustave LaFitte

Mary Louise
m. Horace F. Clark
m. Robert Niven

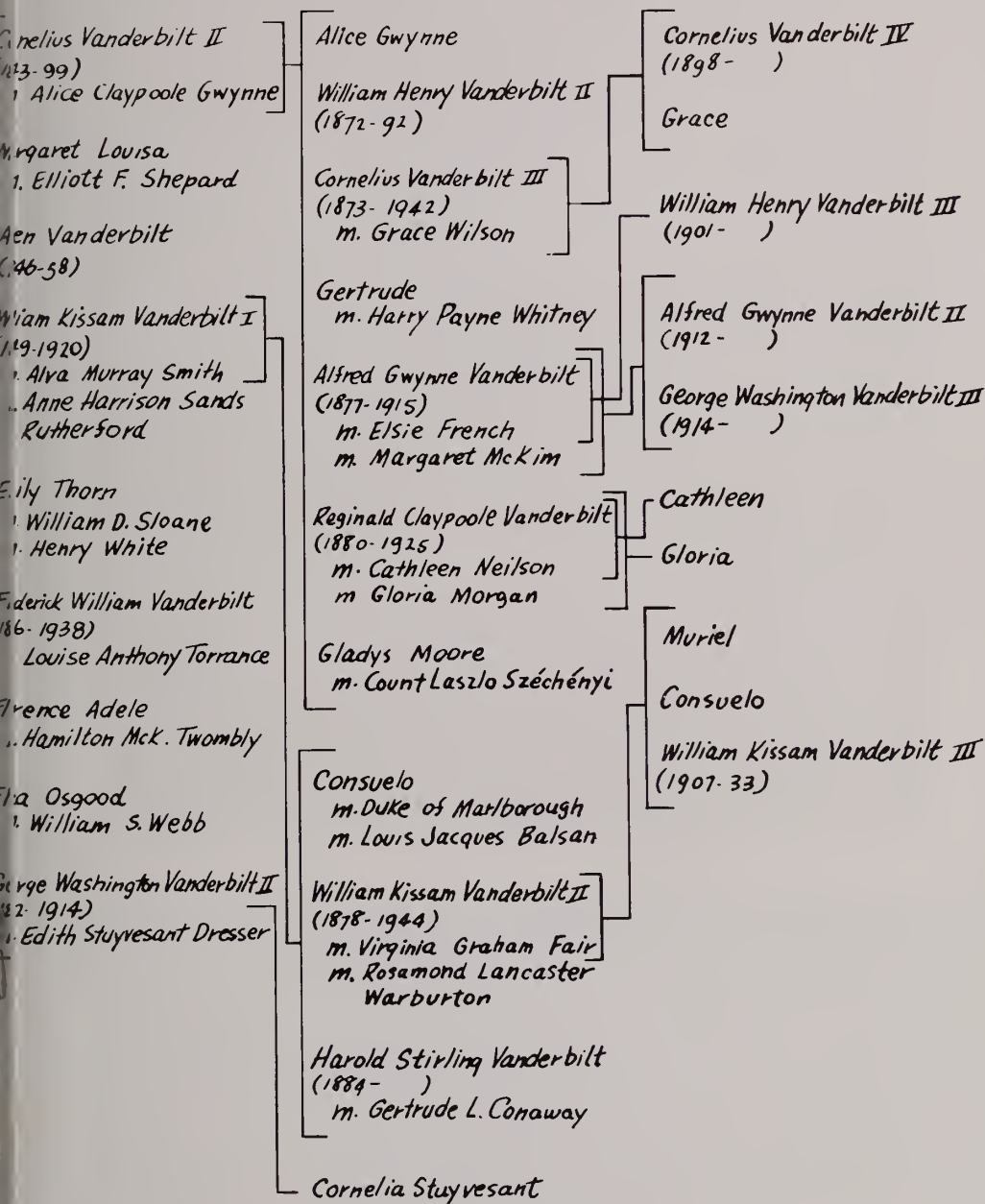
Frances

George Washington Vanderbilt
(died in infancy).

George Washington Vanderbilt
(1841 - 66)



FAMILY TREE





COURTYARD



HALL OF FISHES

A fascinating weapon collection of shields, daggers and early guns decorates a glass enclosed terrace overlooking a fountain and pool.

Everywhere there is a profusion of the precious, the rare and the unusual.

Utilizing the physical layout of the mansion to best advantage, a visitor usually begins the tour in a section of the lower floor, proceeding from there to the upper floor, then to the main floor and from there through a glass enclosed arcade, through the Boxwood Garden, past the sundial and down stone stairs to a second section of the lower floor.

HALL OF FISHES

About 150 yards from the mansion stands the 2-story Hall of Fishes with its magnificent and gigantic collection of marine life, natural habitat groups, wild life dioramas, gameheads and stuffed tropical birds. Many of the marine forms shown are the only specimen in existence and were collected, identified and named for the first time by Mr. Vanderbilt and his staff. On the roof is the first tee of what was the Vanderbilt's 7-hole golf course. There is a breathtaking view of Northport Harbor, Long Island Sound and the Connecticut shoreline.

MEMORIAL WING

In the foyer is a scale model of the 'Alva,' Mr. Vanderbilt's last yacht. In the rooms on this floor are a multitude of exhibits of popular interest—an exciting birdlife exhibit; folklore of the South Sea Islands; mementos of auto racing, a sport in which Mr. Vanderbilt was a colorful and major figure; the drama of the invertebrates; a wonderful group of ship models, all superbly accurate in every detail. A room of particular interest offers a fascinating group of nine marine-life habitat exhibits. Subtle floor lighting suggests a bluish undersea glow that heightens the realism of the exhibits.

MAIN FLOOR ROOMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST



SITTING ROOM FROM PORTUGAL

THE DINING ROOM

The long, narrow dining room exquisitely executes the Spanish-Moroccan motif with tiled floor, carved wooden ceiling and rough white walls hung with old Moorish weapons inlaid with silver, ivory and jewels. The furniture is Italian Renaissance, including a carved walnut alms counter with two offering slots. A set of twelve carved walnut side chairs covered in brown leather of Flemish 17th century origin flank an eleven foot Florentine 17th century refectory table of carved walnut. The corner fireplace with the Vanderbilt coat-of-arms is outlined in old tiles and hooded by a plaster mantel.

SITTING ROOM FROM PORTUGAL

The wall-facing and structure of this richly decorated room are actual 13th century Portuguese handiwork artfully incorporated into the Vanderbilt mansion. The Portuguese fireplace is dated 1491 and bears unique carvings of knights with faces of inset marble.

ORGAN ROOM

The pipes of a \$90,000 organ are hidden behind an enormous Aubusson Chinoiserie tapestry, early 18th century. Numerous 15th century oil paintings line the walls. A massive Caen mantle and fireplace dominate this large room, carpeted by a 26 x 14 foot Persian Kurd rug. A carved oak archbishop's chair on a dais flanks part of one wall. The massive carved oak refectory table of Elizabethan style holds various Vanderbilt Memorabilia. A guest book on the table bears the signatures of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and other famous personalities.



DINING ROOM

UPPER FLOOR ROOMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

MEMORIAL ROOM

This room offers a display of African big game brought back from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan by Mr. Vanderbilt's son, William K. Vanderbilt, 3rd. The younger Vanderbilt was killed in an automobile accident in 1933 when he was 27. This room and its dramatic exhibits were established by his father as a fitting memorial.

MRS. VANDERBILT'S BEDROOM AND DRESSING ROOM

The bathtub is hewn from a solid block of marble and the fixtures are gold. The original furnishings have been replaced by an absorbing collection from the remarkable life of 'Commodore' Cornelius Vanderbilt, fabulous founder of the Vanderbilt family.

MR. VANDERBILT'S BEDROOM

A short passageway, beautifully furnished, once used as a breakfast room, leads to the 26 x 26 foot bedroom furnished in Empire Style, Acajou and Bronze Dore of French 18th century and 19th century origin. A Zonsei decorated, red lacquer three-fold screen stands in one corner and a Kirman carpet from East Persia lies on the floor. In the center of the room stands an Elizabethan style English carved oak refectory table seven feet six inches long. Chinese Famille Verte Porcelain covered jars, mounted as lamps, with designs of figures in landscape, stand on teakwood tables.

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NORTHPORT HARBOR PORCH



Open May 1st to October 31st, every day except Monday, from 10:00 to 4:00 o'clock. Sundays and holidays 12:00 to 5:00 o'clock. Admission charge, adults 75 cents, children under 12 years, 25 cents, excepting school groups, accompanied by teachers, who make arrangements in advance, also men and women in the uniform of the United States and her allies and hospitalized veterans.



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